

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPERATING AN EDGE ROUTER

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method for operating an edge router in a network that provides multiple levels of service is provided. In response to receiving packets, the edge router determines a corresponding packet flow. An incremental utility for each packet is then calculated, and each packet is labeled as a function of the incremental utility. The packets are then

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forwarded to core routers in the network, where they are processed based on the labels. The incremental utility can be based on a utility function corresponding to the flow and intra-flow priorities associated with the packets.